



Big Sky Trailblazers March 2019

President: Joe Rennick Vice President: Greg Donovan Secretary: Gail Paddison Treasurer: Bernie Irwin

Please All Contact To: Gdhbluebums@gmail.com

Last Ride: Spring Mount by Kate

After a light sprinkling of rain the night before, the dust had settled slightly in time for our Sunday ride at Springmount, on the stony ridges near Carroll. It was a welcome change as the fog laid low on the hills early in the morning while we began to saddle up for another pleasant outing. We headed off in a group of 14 riders, with 2 new members (Chrys and Susan) joining us. There were no hiccups with horse or rider as we navigated a fair amount of stone up the hill towards the Thunderbolt Trig Station – named after the infamous bushranger who roamed the district in the 1860s. The scenery was lovely with views either side of us out towards the Liverpool Plains and west to Gunnedah as far as the eye could see. We even spotted some local wildlife, as five deer surprised us by darting out of the bushes into the clearing before sneaking back into the scrub. For around 3 kilometres, we ventured higher and higher into what legend has it – Thunderbolt bushranger country. And you could see why. It gave us visions of the outlaw's supposed hideout more than 150 years ago as the rocks and caves provided the perfect refuge and vantage point across the plains. Once at the top, we stopped for a relaxing break as we chatted with acquaintances and met new people while enjoying the pretty views. Back in the saddle, we made our way down the other side before stopping for a pleasant morning tea under some shady Gums and Kurrajong trees.



to the task and we all conquered the rocky challenge before making our way up into the clearing. It was an enjoyable and relaxing ride home through more pretty country and all the horses were well behaved. After dismounting, we sat around for a chat about upcoming rides over a few cold drinks and lunch. A big thank you to everyone who came along for the ride, property owner Ed Wall for allowing us onto his farm, and to Joe for driving the "chuck wagon".



Finding the location

was easy. All you had to do was spot the stock, as the inquisitive resident cattle were wondering whether the Toyota tea vehicle was their hay truck! After a nibble on some tasty home-baked cakes and a nice hot cuppa provided by Joe, we mounted up and set off again on a challenging descent and climb through a deep ravine. With some unwarranted trepidation, the horses were up







First Aid Course held 23rd February at the Gunnedah Aero Club

So, with the view that occasionally one of us is going to fall victim to gravity, or misplace our seat in the saddle and end up unwillingly on the ground a little worse for wear.... A super First Aid training course was organised! Being that we are all very diligent at completing our homework, we all (except for Kevin and Gail) turned up bright, knowledgeable and ready to learn all things First Aid! With terrific explanations and demonstrations by Scotty (our terrific and very patient instructor) we bandaged, breathed and compressed our way through a very thorough course.

We do hope we never need these skills when out on a ride, but they are valuable skills to have! All up 13 of us completed the course, which is awesome! Massive thanks to Scotty for being a fantastic and patient trainer, to Bernie for organising food so we didn't wither away to nothing, and the grant cash which has paid for the course so we can keep each other properly bandaged and first aided! ☺ Thanks also to the Gunnedah Aero Club's facilities which we borrowed for the day.



News and Info

Meeting: Held

1. Executives have agreed that our Facebook page is only to organise rides and keep in touch with members and not for any private advertising. A notice to this effect has been put up.
2. April Ride Greg and Greg went and did a pre ride by quad bike – great job guys. Need: Loo – Joe to provide
3. May Ride – Archery Club gave permission to use their facilities. Garry lead way
4. Grant Money left \$272. We will use this to subsidise the Boss Course for Full Members of our Club eg \$25. If there is any leftover we will use this for John to gain his 1st Aid Certificate which is due in November
5. June Boss Course
 - Email sent to NETHA, MTR, TBR Clubs to see if they have anyone who wants to do Boss Course. Weekend booked at Somerton 7-10 June hopefully for ride and Course. Bernie is going out to check the facilities, etc next week. Pre-ride will have to be organised
 - See if June is able to come – Gail to ring
 - Meat for BBQ and salads for the Course - Merryl
 - Plates, etc - ??
 - Morning/afternoon tea - ??
 - Present for presenter - Bernie
 - People to cook, etc, setup - ??
 - Cones, etc - Bernie
 - Closer to the time we will be asking people to do jobs or put your hand up
 - Information about Course and Ride will be sent out as soon as possible
6. Sympathy card to be sent to Oakhampton Homestead - Gail
7. Pilliga Pottery – rung to say we will not be there this year - Gail
8. Pony Club Ride – spoke with Mark (President) he is going to email information - Bernie
9. Charity Ride – Email sent cancelling this ride for us as we are doing our Boss Course - Gail
 - **FACEBOOK VERSUS EMAIL** – If you could please email even if you have put it on facebook some of us that organise things don't always look on facebook and at least by email one gets pinged so you know to look at it.
 - **If ride needs to be changed at the last moment, only those who have responded by email will be contacted**

Accreditation Course – Trail Boss June 8-9 2019 Somerton

Forward notice...and first in best dressed! Our Club has received approval to host an ATHRA Accreditation – Trail Boss course on the June Long Weekend.

Now what does that all mean you say???

So – kinda like First Aid, this course is to help us build our skills but also to ensure safety and fun for all of us whilst we are out and about, not only when on our club rides but also when just riding by ourselves. It also will allow all of us to assist with running rides within the club, as every ride, by ATHRA rules, must have a Trail Boss.

COURSE PRACTICAL RIDING REQUIREMENTS

All course participants wishing to obtain the Trail Boss qualification will be required to meet and satisfy all of the practical riding requirements listed below. There is no allowance for Trainers/Assessors to deviate from the requirement. Trail Boss applicants must independently complete the following and be observed as being in control at all times;



"A good leader can lead them to water, but a great leader can also make them drink."

- Ride a horse in a walk, trot and canter, this is to be carried out in either a 20-metre circle or figure of 8. The rider must complete this exercise independently and complete each circle as directed
- Lead a horse whilst mounted and be in control of both the ridden and led horse. This exercise is to be conducted at a walk. The Assessor will want to observe both horses are under control by rider
- Mount and dismount their horse unassisted. The use of mounting blocks, steps or stools as an aid to mounting is not permitted. Natural culverts, logs and ditches are permitted to be used.
- Correct use and fit of equipment will be observed as well as the condition of them.
- Securely tie up a horse.
- Safely lead a horse from the ground using reins or lead rope.
- Safely open & close a hinged gate as well as a “makeshift gate” (Cocky Gate)
- Role Playing – Trail Boss applicants must be observed in taking control of scenarios as outlined by the Assessor. This is to be taken seriously and undertaken to the best of the applicant’s ability. This is taken into consideration by the Trainer when awarding of certificates.

Whilst our club is hosting the course, and we want as many of our members to complete it, the course is also being offered to our surrounding clubs’ members. So PLEASE... get in fast, block out the weekend in your diary, and let Bernie know you are dead keen! 😊

Calendar of Possible Events 2019			
Date	Where	Type	Person to Organise Ride
10 March	Spring Mount - Carroll	Day	
24 March			Bushrangers
7 April			NETRA
14 April	Mount Nombi	Camp	Greg Donovan
26-28 April	Gdh Show		
28 April			Bushrangers
5 May			NETRA
12 May	Wondoba Forest	Day	Greg Donovan
26 May			Bushrangers
2 June			NETRA
7-10 June	Somerton	Camp	Bernie Irwin
8-9 June	Somerton – Boss Course	Camp	Bernie Irwin
23 June			Bushrangers
6-7 July	Pony Club Trail Ride – Rocky Glen	Camp	???
7 July	Pine Forest		NETRA
13-14 July	Hartwood	Camp	Joe Rennick
28 July			Bushrangers
4 August	Metz		NETRA
11 August	Crooks/Garry Knapman	Day	Mark Goddard
25 August			Bushrangers
1 September			NETRA
8 September	Dubbo	Camp	Allanah Gainsford
22 September			Bushrangers
6 October			NETRA
4-7 October	Beach Ride	Camp	Joe Rennick/Cath Anderson
12 October		Day	
27 October			Bushrangers
3 November			NETRA
10 November	Pilliga	Camp	Joe Handel
24 November			Bushrangers
1 December			NETRA
8 December	Christmas Party and AGM		Bluebums

PLEASE REMEMBER THIS IS A POSSIBLE CALENDER THINGS COULD CHANGE DUE TO WEATHER OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES